

Children's Newspaper, March 7, 1942

# TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Prime Minister,

We are only one of your humblest admirers, coming to you in a small newspaper growing smaller, but we love our country as nothing else on earth, and are deeply moved by the calamities that now encompass us.

We belong to the Future; we are the youngsters who will grow up in the Better World that you have promised us. We do not mind the things we have to give up now. We do not mind how hard life is, for very well we know how men and women have toiled and suffered to make the wonderful world we live in. We like to be part of the great adventure that is shaping the world in which we shall have to live.

## Surely It Is Enough

We are not babies in cradles. We are growing up in our teens, and we understand. Lots of us are working hard to win the war and lots of us are still at school. But we see what is happening. We are the Thirteens, and Fourteens, and Fifteens, and the Sixteens and Seventeens you are calling up; and who knows that our turn will not come before the world is ours again?

Is it to go on through all these years, this cruel war? Is calamity to follow calamity until another generation of good lives has perished? Is there no way of shortening this great horror that has fallen on mankind in these years that are everything to us? We have had very little peace so far, and when we look about us and see and read of the sorrows of the world, we think of some words that come from one of your books—*Surely, for history, it is enough.*

**SURELY** it is enough already. Surely it is time our people realised that all the long fame of England for two thousand years, all the glory of our Island, all the power and majesty of our Empire, are in the balances and may go down? We have been told that our strength is irresistible, our fortresses unassailable; we have believed that Liberty is like the Rock of Ages which nothing can break. Yet Hong Kong falls, and Malaya, and Singapore, and the enemy creeps on towards Australia. We have always loved to think of the freedom of New Zealand, and the happy lives of its people far from the troubled world, but do they hear the war drum sounding there?

## Something Still To Be Done

Is there not something still to be done, Mr Prime Minister, to save our country, to save freedom from rocking and reeling all over the world? Is your Government even now strong enough to fight these evil things? Have you spoken to our people plainly, as Mr Stalin speaks to Russia? Are we ready to burn our houses down if need be, as the Russians do? Pray God it will not be, but have you tried enough to stir that spirit in our people? Have you told us we must be willing to sacrifice the last small thing we love?

**WE** have given you the power, but have you used it? Is your Government as courageous as our soldiers, our sailors, our airmen?

Our people will follow their rulers through fire, John Ruskin said, if it is needful and honourable for them. They have followed you through fire. They have seen their homes burned down, their cities in ruin, their friends and neighbours and children slain, their small possessions gone. Are you still afraid to

rule them, to command them, to tell them what to do? Must they still go on believing that life is the same, that they are free, that they can sit and lounge (as thousands do) and not feel they are traitors? Can you not speak the word that will make us as one man?

**DO** you remember how we gave you all we have and are? The war was very young when the nation was ready for you to command it, surrendering to your will our lives, our homes, our properties, our pleasures, our mental powers, our strong right arm. We gave them to you for the country in its peril. And yet when you wanted iron you hesitated to take our railings. When you wanted to save wheat you asked us timidly if we would try another sort of loaf. When you wanted sugar you did not stop the brewers wasting it. When you wanted to save petrol you did not stop cars driving to dog-races or schoolgirls going to dances in their cars. When we were short of transport you did not stop trains from running to race-meetings. When you wanted money urgently you did not stop our people wasting money on football pools. When we were short of paper your red tape wasted it in thousands of tons.

## The Waste That Hinders Victory

Why do you not stop these things? Why do you not stop the monstrous waste that goes on everywhere? Why do you not stop encouraging young women to start drinking in these wet canteens? Why do you not control the waste of wages paid to boys, so that a lad may take home a pocketful of money such as his father never dreamed of in all his patient years? Do you know that our lads are learning to drink with all this money in their pockets?

One precious service you could have rendered the nation long ago, and saved much shipping. There is enough waste in every village to keep a pig, and in every town to keep many pigs, and it has not been anybody's business to collect it. What a marvellous thing it would have been if every village had had its own pigs, and if every town had done as some of them have done, keeping many pigs to feed their people!

**AND** what a glorious work you could have done with wages, fixing them for the good of all, and extending your idea of putting so much by each week for the credit of the earners when peace comes back? Instead of the muddling income-tax we might have had a simple saving system in which everybody would have been involved.

It seems time that our people were made to realise that it is life or death for us. It is our country that counts above all else, the country that has stirred the world for a thousand years by its love of the things that are greater than life. We have a past so great, a heritage so rich, that it is hard to think of it without pride. We have to keep intact and strong the bonds of brotherhood that were fashioned for us long ago. We have to keep our Island as the citadel of freedom, the guardian of faith, the defender of justice.

Never were evil things so powerful. Never was it so needful that we should be strong. Perhaps it may be the last time that our nation can attempt to save the world, for is it not growing smaller, and its people older? Are there enough children being born to carry

## CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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Abroad 1d

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EDITED BY ARTHUR MEE

## Old King Gold in Exile

**THE** news that gold for wedding-rings is being rationed in this country calls attention to one of the most astounding facts in a world of economic and industrial chaos—the British Empire still has about half a million workers mining gold, though we stand in most urgent need of every other kind of metal for war weapons.

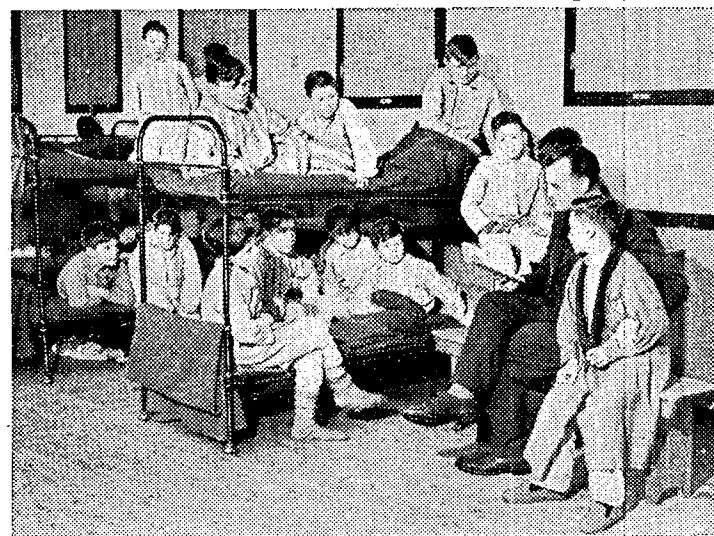
A great deal of this gold is bought by the United States, providing us with dollar exchange, which is very useful in spite of Lease-Lend. But what use has America for the gold? Apparently none, for she promptly buries it again, in a great vault at Fort Knox in Kentucky. America herself employs about 55,000 men in digging up gold, and this production, added to what she buys from the British Empire, pro-

vides something like 1000 tons a year to put back into the ground at Fort Knox. Try to imagine a *thousand tons of gold.*

This fairy-tale hidden hoard is worth many thousands of millions of dollars, and should be enough (in theory) to buy almost anything in the world. Nevertheless, the US is short of rubber and tin, but at present all her gold cannot buy from Malaya enough rubber to make a bicycle tyre, or enough tin for a can of baked beans.

After ruling over mankind for so many centuries as the glittering symbol of wealth and power, poor Old King Gold sits on his tottering throne in a Kentucky tomb, dreaming of past glories. Nobody seems to have any use for him, and we may well wonder whether he will ever regain his sovereign power.

## The Generation Coming On



Continued from the previous column

it on? Little Island, indeed, and smaller still it may be as the years roll on; then surely, dear Prime Minister, we must be at our zenith now? Surely you must rule us with a rod that will not bend, a word that will not fail.

It is our world that is at stake, the country of Shakespeare and Milton and Cromwell and Wordsworth and Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Fry, the land of the fathers of Washington and Lincoln, the inspiration of youth and the delight of age from generation unto generation. Raise it to its majestic height, and in this day of peril let us remember John Milton's prayer:

**O Thou, Who of Thy own free grace didst build up this Britannick Empire to a glorious and enviable height, with all her daughter islands about her, stay us in this felicitie.**

We are, dear Prime Minister,  
**The Generation Coming On**

## STORY

*Belgium is full of cars that have been seized by the Germans; such cars are painted grey at once. This little story is quite true.*

**A** SMALL boy was walking along a Brussels avenue, determinedly pulling a red toy car at the end of a string.

A German officer stopped in passing and exclaimed, "Well, well, sonny, what a beautiful car your parents have given you!" There was silence. The child said nothing and walked straight on. "Oh, I see," the German went on; "you have borrowed the toy from someone, haven't you?" Again silence.

Then the Nazi lost his temper. "Answer me, you little idiot," he roared; "I believe you have stolen this car!"

The child stopped, looked his questioner in the eye, and said: "You know very well, mister, that if I'd stolen my car it would have been painted grey."



## The New Primate of All England

In the nomination of Dr Temple as the successor to Dr Lang as Primate of All England we have the first example of an archbishopric being held by a father and son.

Many older readers of the C.N. will recall the stolid little man who crowned Edward the Seventh and in his younger days had gained a great reputation as headmaster of Rugby School.

The new archbishop is his second son, and he, too, was head of a well-known school, Repton, before becoming famous as a religious leader in London. From London Dr Temple went to Manchester as bishop, and from there to the Archbishopric of York.

At the age of 60 Dr Temple is still full of mental vigour, and has long been a teacher and preacher with a powerful influence over the younger people of today. He is keenly alive to the social problems of our time, and has never been diffident about speaking boldly on any

question, however revolutionary his views may have appeared to some members of the Church of England. His deep sincerity, allied with a delightful sense of humour, has won him friends in all quarters, so that everybody agrees that Dr Temple will supply that wise leadership which Dr Lang declared would be so vital to the spiritual and social needs of this country at the end of the Hitler War.



His place in York is taken by the Bishop of Winchester, Dr Garbett, one of the most popular of all our religious leaders; he is 67, and also a man of bold and vigorous social views.

The workers are housed in huts, for the road runs through uninhabited country, much of which has hitherto not even been mapped; but China has done a job like this before and will do it again, and it is a great satisfaction that it is a splendid thing to do for peace as well as for war. It will be crowded with life and prosperity for China when Japan is paying the bitter price of her return to barbarism.

mountain ranges must be crossed, tremendous blasting operations must be undertaken; and the peril of accident and disease is ever present.

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rescue it. It was declared to be impossible, for the depth was a great one for divers, but the United Salvage Syndicate of Melbourne has two fine divers named Johnston and Williams, who, they said, would be able to do the job. So the Bank of England set aside £30,000 for the work, and has now got its money back 80 times over. The divers were working among mines, and counted 150 of them round the hull of the ship, but they held on and won their way to victory. The gold is safe in its strong boxes, ready to play its part in bringing back freedom to Europe and saving liberty for Australia and all mankind when that good time comes.

### A Halkevi For London

Almost every town in Turkey, and many villages, has a Halkevi, a people's house, and the Turkish Ambassador has now opened one in London. It is one of the last public acts of Dr Tewfik Rustu Aras, who is returning to Turkey after a happy stay here. The London Halkevi is the first to be opened abroad and is one more proof of the friendship between the two nations.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

In a description of a sinking at sea it was stated that the film of oil was three miles wide.

Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., tells us that if we each saved a shilling a day it would come to £820,000,000 a year—a thrilling suggestion well worth consideration.

*The Red Cross needs £100,000 a week to keep its work going.*

THE nation saved 100,000 tons of waste-paper in January, a record.

*The L.M.S. locomotive Coronation which went to the New York World's Fair is home again.*

THE British Legion has received a cheque for £21,734 from Malaya, representing Poppy Day collection in the Malay States.

Canada will now begin to send us tens of millions of tons of dried eggs, instead of the eggs in shell she has been sending; they will take only one-seventh of the shipping space.

*We must now take our own soap on long train journeys. It is announced that, owing to soap rationing, no more can be provided by the railway companies.*

CONSCRIPTION of men, women, and goods has been ordered by the Australian Government.

### Guide and Scout News Reel

HAVING lost their headquarters the 1st Finsbury Park Guides were given permission to use the garden and glasshouse of a demolished house; on taking over a year ago they repaired the glasshouse, and they have raised crops in the garden.

*Guide Rachel Pusey of the 1st Hythe Company receives the Certificate of Merit for rescuing from drowning an 8-year-old boy who had slipped into a submerged bomb crater while bathing.*

BOY Scouts of America are planning their National Service programme on the same lines as that of the Scouts of Britain.

There is great keenness for Air Scouting in Peterborough, where, besides numerous Air Scout Patrols, there is an Air Scout Troop of over 80 boys.

### THE FOUR Bs

By Australia's Prime Minister

Our honeymoon is finished. Now we must fight or work as never before.

There must not be a man or woman in the Commonwealth who goes to bed to-night without having used the period of wakefulness for the purposes of the war. Hours previously devoted to sport and leisure must be given to the duties of war.

Every citizen has a parallel duty to that of the man in the fighting forces. All are now obliged by fate to turn to a more salutary way of life.

Brains and Brawn are better than Bets or Beer.

## The Deathless Ride of the Filipinos

ANY poet of America seeking a theme for a war poem to stand with Tennyson's Charge of the Light Brigade has it now. He has only to mould into immortal verse the thrilling prose in which General MacArthur, the heroic commander in the Philippines, pays tribute to the gallantry and sacrifice of the Igorot natives who are fighting side by side with the Americans in withstanding the Japanese invaders on the island of Luzon.

It was on the rugged promontory of Bataan that a company of the Igorots died almost to a man in defending themselves, annihilating the entire 20th infantry regiment of the murderous Japs.

So dense is the jungle here that the American drivers were unable to see their way more than a yard or two ahead. They needed eyes, keen eyes, but it was certain death to stand up and look out. The native commander of the Igorots, however, called on his men to leap on the roofs of the tanks and there to guide the driver below by signalling with a stick. In their free hand these fearless Filipinos fired their pistols at any Japs they saw, while they added to the din of battle by their fierce battlecries.

General MacArthur ends his report of that wild morning thus:

Many desperate acts of courage and heroism have I seen in many fields of battle in many parts of the world. I have seen forlorn hopes become realities. I have seen last-ditch stands and innumerable acts of personal heroism that defy description. But for sheer breath-

taking and heart-stopping desperation, I have never known the equal of those Igorots riding the tanks.

Headhunters within living memory, this Malay tribe in the Philippine Islands has justified to the full the civilisation brought by the Americans to peoples whom the Spaniards had failed to tame. There is a delightful story about the first school established by their missionary. The teacher was a Mrs Kelly, and she taught the boys to greet her respectfully every morning. Soon afterwards a party of travellers arrived in the village; to their astonishment they found themselves saluted by the native boys, who gravely said "Good morning, Mrs Kelly."

The Igorots are greatly superior in intelligence and physique to the Negritos and many other races on the islands. They are clever workers in metal, and have served their country well in the construction of roads through the jungles.

But never did they drive a better road than that followed by the American tanks on that victorious morning not long ago.

## CHINA'S CALL TO INDIA

General Chiang Kai-shek, China's great leader, has sent a stirring message to India, which he has just been visiting, calling on the Indian peoples to throw their whole weight into the war. This is how he begins and ends his message.

CHINA and India comprise one-half of the world's population. Their common frontier extends for nearly 2000 miles. In the 2000 years' history of their intercourse, which has been of a purely cultural and commercial character, there has never been an armed conflict. Indeed, nowhere else can one find so long a period of uninterrupted peace between two neighbouring countries. This is an irrefutable proof that our two peoples are peace-loving by nature. Today they have not only identical interests but also the same destiny. For this they are in

duty bound to side with the anti-aggression countries, and fight shoulder to shoulder to secure real peace for the whole world.

I SINCERELY hope, and I confidently believe, that our ally Great Britain, without waiting for any demands on the part of the people of India, will as speedily as possible give them real political power, so that they may be in a position further to develop their spiritual and material strength and thus realise that their participation in the war is not merely an aid to the anti-aggression nations for the securing of victory, but also a turning-point in their struggle for India's freedom. From an objective point of view, I am of the opinion that this would be the wisest policy, which will redound to the credit of the British Empire.

## Home Guards Against the Common Cold

ONCE on a time, and not so long ago, the C.N. editorial rooms at John Carpenter House were regularly sprayed with a vapour believed to be a precaution against germs. No record was kept of its value in warding off colds or influenza, but the practice was discontinued because it was said that doctors thought it of small avail. Now we learn on the authority of three U.S. experts from

Chicago and Pennsylvania Universities that a new spray has been found and tried and not found wanting. It is called propylene glycol, which has a familiar sound; and we must hope for the best. At any rate, the vapour has no smell. Other hopes, raised by the Rockefeller Institute, are of a new vaccine, made up of dried preparations of the influenza bacillus, very effective against the common cold.

## THINGS SEEN

Queen Mary nursing her grandson, Prince William, at the christening.

A bus filled with passengers swerving dangerously because a flashlight was turned on to the driver's face and blinding him.

A Spitfire returning from a raid on France with a foot-long piece of telegraph pole embedded in its wing.



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## GOOD NEWS FROM A VILLAGE

The new report of the British Legion brings good news of the work done at Preston Hall, at Aylesford in Kent.

Of 353 patients discharged from the sanatorium more than half were recovered or so improved in health as to be fit for work. In the industrial side of the village the war reversed the normal situation that had existed 20 years, the problem of finding markets for the goods manufactured had disappeared. Orders poured in, but the Legion wisely decided not to expand their workshops by bringing in outside employees, for the scheme is specially adapted for tuberculous patients.

## THE WOODPIGEON IN THE DOCK

A census is on foot to examine the woodpigeon population, which rightly has no friends among the farmers, who complain that it steals their grain and pays no rent by destroying insects, wire worms, or other common thieves. They have complained so bitterly that census-takers are to count, if and when they can, the flocks of woodpigeons. They are to ascertain whether they nest in battalions or as single spies, and to mark their comings and goings.

Woodpigeons, when captured, are to be examined carefully to ascertain what they eat and how much. In short, everything that can be known about them is to be gathered in.

## EINSTEIN'S LAST LAP

Professor Einstein, 62 years old, has just announced that he has laid the last rivet in the structure of the Relativity universe which he began 20 years ago but was not allowed to finish in Germany. The last rivet, as announced to the Franklin Institute, consists in fitting into his scheme the force of Gravity, which Isaac Newton failed to explain. Einstein may have been more successful, but as there are only a few higher mathematicians who can follow him, we shall have to wait a long time for a popular explanation.

## Why the Marmots Went to Bed Early

It has been stated that, because the Zoo marmots retired to their long hibernation some weeks earlier than usual last autumn, the keepers knew that a severe winter would follow. The reasoning is entirely wrong.

No animal is capable of long-distance weather forecasting. The withdrawal of the marmots from activity would be the result of their having fed so well during the summer as to accumulate ample reserves of fat, enabling them to go to rest. It is the effect of what has happened, not foreknowledge of what is to come, that brings about hibernation.

Squirrels and bats are awakened by high winter temperatures and come abroad to seek food, but they may be driven

back to shelter and slumber the very same day if weather conditions change suddenly and take them by surprise.

We cannot suppose that an animal knows, when it goes to rest in September, that it is not to wake up for another five months. Instinct does not make animals so superior to mankind as to enable them to predict the nature of an entire season through which they are to sleep. Shortage of food during summer and early autumn may actually cause them to delay their retirement to a dangerously late date, simply because their bodies are not fortified for the long endurance to which they must submit themselves. It is the past, not the future, which determines their conduct.

## The Weasel Holds the Stage

THEY might have been little spectators at a pantomime, but they were just two rabbits down in Cornwall. They sat and gazed, all eyes for the clever performer disporting itself near by as if for their amusement.

Into the air leapt the lithe acrobat, cutting queer capers and antics, twisting and turning its sinuous body snakelike, all the while stealthily edging nearer and nearer the two spectators crouching by the wayside.

The show was varied, as if the wily contortionist was indeed eager that it should not pall or lose interest; and the rabbits sat on, fascinated, spell-bound. The actor danced a jig and then, without warning, turned to the audience. The

furry things immediately rose and bolted.

They struck a zigzag course to the nearest hedge. We thought they might have got away scot-free, but no, an agonised shriek rent the air.

The weasel had not occupied the stage and given his turn for nothing. One spectator at any rate had paid the price, poor little furry thing.



Art in the Mine—The War Artists Advisory Committee has commissioned artists to paint various aspects of the war effort. Here is an artist at work in a Yorkshire coalmine.

## WREN'S RAM

Sir Christopher Wren had some of our problems to solve in his day, especially the clearing of ruins, before he could rebuild after the Great Fire.

He was driven to the use of gunpowder for bringing down great pillars, but a huge stone having been flung through a house during this process, petitions were presented against the further use of explosives. Wren then invented a huge battering ram, which, operated by 30 men using all their strength, in three days brought down the last of the towering columns. To clear the site of St Paul's he had 47,000 cartloads of rubble and broken masonry carried away.

## Evacuee's Discovery

The latest saying by an evacuee comes to us from Yorkshire, from a village where John Wesley stayed on his last Yorkshire visit. The other morning the evacuee said to the lady of the manor house, "I had no idea that the country was so large."

## A NEW PLASTIC

Of the making of new plastics there is no end, and Saran, the newest, should have a fine future if it can do all that is claimed for it.

It is a resin, a kind of gum, which can be woven into strands or yarn of various sizes and gauges, like cotton or the various artificial silks and textiles. When woven into a fabric, which can be washed with soap and water, it is as tough as steel, and can be used to cover the seats in omnibuses or tube trains or any kind of seat which requires a cover unaffected by heat and hard wear. The U.S. Maritime Commission is to try it in ships, and it is recommended also for table tops and aeroplane partitions.

## A CAT'S LONG VIGIL

The story has been told in the C.N. of a London cat which, although it passed each day at a house into which it was admitted as a starveling, spent its nights in the ruins of the home from which it had been bombed.

The remains of the damaged house were eventually cleared away, but the cat still kept its vigil, crouched on the top of a gate, waiting, watching, and wondering we know not what. For 17 months this vigil was kept unbroken, and now, owing to its having been found suffering from chilblains, the poor cat's vigil is over at last.

## AT AGINCOURT

Search for scrap iron has raised the question about the old iron supplies in the Weald of Kent and Sussex, which furnished iron for horseshoes at Agincourt, and which have left their traces in many hammer ponds.

Smelting of the shale deposits containing iron ceased less than a century ago, and mining (when the shale ore was sent to Staffordshire) not till after the Crystal Palace was raised. But the prospects now are not promising, though the number of small ironworks was once 225, and Ashburnham, the biggest, turned out 350 tons a year. The deposits were commonly in so-called bell pits, usually less than 20 feet deep, and the iron was interbedded with shale. It was thin and difficult to work.

## The Sad Case of the Little Shop

HUNDREDS of thousands of small shopkeepers, not to mention some big ones, are threatened with ruin as the restrictions increase in the manufacturing trades, and as imports decline through the shortage of shipping. The Government is compelled to divert trade from non-essentials to essentials, especially to war goods, and with each new economy in the production of things that we can do without another set of shopkeepers is compelled to close down.

Food retailers, except fishmongers, are the best off, but even in this case the little shop is often deserted and ration

## X-RAYS BEATING RADIUM

A new kind of X-ray has been born in the brain of an inventor who is a professor of physics at Illinois University and who has developed his invention in the laboratories of the General Electric Company of America.

It accelerates existing X-rays to a point when they are 20 times more penetrating than any now in use in hospitals or factories. These are more powerful than the existing supply of radium and they raise the speed of the electrons in the rays nearly to that of light itself—186,000 miles a second.

Only the future can tell what use may be made of them in examining the structure of steel and of other metal castings in factories. At present only a quarter of their power is employed, and this only in the laboratory; but the limit has not yet been reached. The inventor of these super X-rays is Mr Donald W. Kerst.

## GUILDFORD'S ELECTRIC IDEA

It should be common knowledge that electrical undertakings managed by municipalities are able to sell current at lower prices than private companies working for profit. The bright town of Guildford is a case in point.

The increased cost of coal and other expenses have compelled it to charge more for electricity now than in peace, but it has seized every opportunity to reduce costs. An appeal was made to consumers not to use electricity in the luncheon hour, and this has succeeded so well that the corporation, in sending out last quarter's accounts to consumers, allowed a rebate of 25 per cent. It is an edifying example of good municipal practice; and the price of electricity in Guildford has thus been almost restored to the price in peace.

## WHY?

A Salford policeman was preparing to escort children over the crossing when he noticed a small boy looking at him intently. "Why, sonny," he said, "what's the matter?" The boy replied: "I was just wondering how it is that only policemen and children always carry their gas-masks."



## The EDITOR'S TABLE

### HIS GOOD DEED

WE hear of a gallant old gentleman who found a good deed for every morning in the cold spell that lasted so long. He turned out early with a spiked stick and broke the ice on the basins for horses at the drinking fountain outside his house.

### The Broad Path of Charity

IT is interesting to see the bequests made by a man of Bordeaux who had an estate in England, the residue of which he has divided into 20 parts for distribution between various charities. Three parts go to the university of Birmingham, seven to the Salvation Army, six between Mohammedans, Buddhists, and Hindus, two to Roman Catholics, and two to Jews.

Nobody can say the man of Bordeaux was small-minded, and we commend his generous view of mankind to all who have fortunes to give away.

### JUST AN IDEA

*It is good to think that the great majority of the human race are beginning to understand that temperance is essential to physical wellbeing, and that cheerfulness, kindness, and selflessness are essential to peace of mind.*

### A Poem from the Clouds

WE have ended our survey of the poets who died for us in the last war. Perhaps we may begin our survey of the poets of this war with these lines from a Pilot Officer—John Gillespie Magee of the Canadian Air Force, who mounted the skies one glorious day not long ago, took up a pencil and paper, and wrote this as he sat at the controls. He came down safely, but has since been killed.

Oh! I have slipped the surly  
bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on  
laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and  
joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds—and done a  
hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—  
wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence.  
Hovering there,  
I've chased the shouting wind  
along, and flung

### Hasty Thinking on the Brains Trust

WE have been glad to see one of our bishops challenging the assertion of the Brains Trust that our happiness depends on happenings over which we have no control.

Happily nobody needs a very great intellectual capacity to know how far from the truth this is, probably as far as anything can be. Much nearer to the truth is the word that came from Galilee 19 centuries ago, that *The Kingdom of Heaven is within you.*

### A Word to the Savings Committee

FROM the beginning of its career the C N has tried its best to keep our language pure and dignified, and it has never encouraged the vulgar practice of printing slovenly English.

All the more sorry it is, therefore, to see the National Savings Committee encouraging people to drop their aitches. It is true that millions of ignorant people do say *that there 'ere*, but is there any reason why the Government should copy them?

Yet in one of its most effective appeals to people to buy Savings Certificates the National Savings Committee beg us to *Listen! No Income Tax on these 'ere.*

It is deplorable and not clever, and it has not even the excuse that the Treasury has taxed our aitches—or our grammar.

## RESISTEZ

NOW that the people of Germany have relapsed into barbarism, and cruelty and hate have become the guiding spirit of a whole nation, it helps us to recall a story of the past.

Protestantism in France had a long fight for freedom, enduring bitter persecution, during which its adherents were known as the Huguenots.

EVERY child has heard of the Massacre of St Bartholomew in 1572, when thousands of people were put to death. Henry of Navarre was a Huguenot, and defeated the Catholic League at the Battle of Ivry in 1590. For the sake of peace in France he became a Roman Catholic, but in 1598 he granted religious freedom to Huguenots by issuing the Edict of Nantes.

This might have seemed the end of their troubles, but in 1685 Louis the Fourteenth revoked the Edict of Nantes, and the persecutions began again.

HALF a century later the persecution was still going on in the mountainous region lying to the west of the Rhone; and there in 1730 some soldiers broke into a private house and arrested a number of Protestant worshippers present, among them a girl of 15, Marie Durand. They were imprisoned in a lonely fortress on the Rhone until they should recant.

For 38 years Marie Durand held this little group together, imbuing them with her own spirit of indomitable resistance. It was she who carved on the wall of their cell the single word, RESISTEZ.

At length, at the age of 53, prematurely old, crippled with rheumatism, she was released.

WAS it worth while, this giving up of her life? Is it worth while for any of us to resist? Most emphatically it is worth while when the call comes to any of us to make the stand for righteousness and freedom.

The name of Marie Durand still rings in the ears of every Protestant in France. We see the same spirit in Pastor Niemoeller in Germany, and we believe it is burning in the hearts of many in all the tortured countries where Hitler's New Order has brought slavery, disease, and death.

### Doing Without

WE have had two and a half years of doing without things, and many luxuries have disappeared from our tables. But was the health of the nation as a whole ever better? Plain fare is the staple food of the majority of the people in the world, and we thrive on it.

## CHINA'S GREAT LEADER



Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, China's redoubtable leader in her struggle against the Japs, and now in command of land and air forces of the United Nations operating in China, Indo-China, and Siam.

## Arthur Mee in the Nursery

*We take this from a letter on the Editor's desk:*

DEAR MR. MEE, Over thirty years ago a little Yorkshire boy learnt to read from the pages of your monthly magazine, then called *The Children's Encyclopedia*. He loved every word for he could understand every word; and he loved the pictures. Some were very jolly. Some were full of wonder. All were beautiful.

How he treasured those magazines, and how carefully they were stored away in a cupboard where they became more precious as the years went by and as the boy grew to manhood—still with something lovely in his heart, your gift beyond all price.

A week or two ago this Yorkshireman tramped through a blizzard to see his son and heir for the first time, a baby not a day old; and presently he went back through frost and

snow and did something he feels sure you will be glad to know. With scissors and paste and several scores of those early magazines of yours (more precious now than ever), he cut out the loveliest and merriest of the coloured pictures, making a frieze of them along the walls of the nursery.

There they are at this moment, Tiger Tim and the Bruin Boys, and those wonderful little men and women J. R. Monsell alone could draw, and all those delicate fairies and elves which some of your happy artists gave you.

One day soon a babe will be in the nursery peopled by your thoughts, all precious to a little fellow years ago, and all new today for his own child. A happy thing it is that after all these years the magic of your pages should be gathered about my child. Yours sincerely,

A YORKSHIREMAN

## FOLLOW YOUR OWN STAR

EVERY man can be his own astronomer at the Pittsburgh Planetarium. Besides the actual theatre set apart for the moving picture of the starry skies, two rooms have been built above it to enable the ordinary person to focus the real stars as the astronomer does. In the outer room is a 10-inch lens, and the mirror of a telescope. In the inner room are six eye-pieces of varying magnification, and the controls which move the telescope so as to bring a star, a planet, or other celestial object, within the telescope's field of vision.

The amateur observer is provided with a guide book to the position in the sky of the object he wishes to examine. He sets the controls for it and starts the telescope's mirror moving.

When the mirror stops it has caught the star or the planet, which can then be steadily observed through the proper eyepiece.

The observer can then press a button and the mirror will automatically continue to follow the star. To complete his instruction a recorded voice will tell him the star's story or what is known about it.

## Under the Editor's Table

A NEWSPAPER says the Prime Minister will have to find fresh fields in which to employ Mr Duff Cooper. We understand he would prefer an office.

*If you met the enemy it would be your duty to go for him, says Lord Mottistone. Where to?*

WOMEN, it is said, can do anything with a shovel. Except comb their hair.

### Peter Puck Wants to Know



**If business goes downhill when it stands still**

WE should aim at the best possible teachers, declares a critic of our schools. What with?

*WE can see where the shoe pinches the Germans, says a writer. They are always putting their foot in it.*

CAMBERWELL Borough Council has started a coal round to give flat-dwellers a square deal.



## Saint Mary of the Himalayas

A MEMORABLE birthday party has been given in New York by the American Mission to Lepers, but the guest of honour was not there. She is Mary Reed and is 87, living in the leper village of Chandag among the foothills of the Himalayas.

As a young school teacher Mary Reed left her home in Ohio to go to India as a missionary, and while there she visited the Chandag Lepers Home, and came away saddened at the wretched conditions under which these outcasts were living. There were about 500 of them, the poorest miseries in Northern India, wandering in rags, begging for food, sleeping in huts.

Five years later, in 1891, Mary Reed was holidaying in America when she made a terrible discovery. She had contracted leprosy! She made up her mind what to do and hurried back to India to work as a leper among her miserable friends at Chandag. She has made her home among them ever since, and we may wonder whether any other living missionary has worked half a century in one place.

It still takes five days on horseback to reach Chandag, but that is all that has not changed since Mary Reed's arrival there. The huts and

stables have been transformed into separate homes for men and women patients, with a hospital, a dispensary, and a chapel. As well as supervising an army of workmen, this amazing woman got her charges interested in agriculture; she bought them cows, and soon the two leper colonies were thriving and self-supporting with rows of neat, well-built houses and lawns. A wall was built round the vegetable garden to keep out jackals, porcupines, and other wild beasts.

All this time Mary Reed was suffering intense pain. Though she gave what medical treatment was available at that time to the other lepers, she disregarded herself. "I am sure that God's love, His wisdom, and His power are at work," she wrote home. "The end may come tomorrow, when He has wrought His will in me."

But it did not come. She had asked thousands of friends to pray that she might be healed, and it has happened that she is now completely cured. But Mary Reed, well and strong again, did not go back to civilisation; she stayed in her cottage on the hilltop, a beacon of cheer and hope to all about her.

Through famine, cholera, the last war, and now this, she carries on. A Happy Birthday to you, Mary Reed!

## Educational Plots

IN the old-world Nottinghamshire town of Bingham some enthusiastic members of the Men of the Trees have established a Demonstration Plot of British Forest Timber, which has proved of much educational value, especially to boys and girls.

The district, which lies in the fertile valley of the River Trent, grows Sugar Beet, so last April the committee added a Demonstration Plot of Sugar Beet and Flax. In connection with this they held a competition for the boys of the Senior Council School, who were given sugar-beet seed to sow in their own gardens.

Prizes were awarded for the best roots and as consolation prizes two of these young gardeners were taken on a visit to the Colwick Sugar Beet Factory six miles away. There they saw the transformation of the roots which they had so carefully reared into the energising food so restricted today, and wrote essays on what they had seen in the factory.

Their less fortunate competitors, evacuees as well as Bingham boys, wrote essays on the harvest only, but all have benefited from the excellent scheme of these local Men of the Trees.

## Sad Effect of Education 100 Years Ago

We are indebted to The Times for this delightful example of a complaint about servants made a century ago. It is from the issue of January 7, 1842, and is a letter to the editor:

THOUGH I am a very humble individual, I beg respectfully to call your attention to a grievance which is of vital importance. I allude to the almost entire disappearance from amongst us of the respectable body of good and trustworthy servants of all work.

Girls of 13 years of age and upwards, who would, if they were willing, add a little to the wages of their parents, or contribute towards getting their own livelihood, prefer living in idleness and poverty, unless they can get places as ladies' maids,

housemaids where a footman is kept, nursery governesses, etc.—places in which they will have little to do, high wages, fine dresses (in their way), and be as little under control as possible.

I will fearlessly assert it is the result of the extensive system of education pursued in our parochial and national schools.

### FATHER AND SON

In the last war an American soldier was officially reported killed in France, but some months later he arrived home safely.

In this war the same American had a son who was reported by the military authorities to have been killed at Pearl Harbour. A few weeks later the father received a letter from his son saying he was safe.

## CARRY ON

### Prayer For an Old Gardener

LORD God of Gardens, if you please,  
Allow old Reuben Pace his ease:  
The lawns are swept, the apples stored,  
New beds are made; but one, O Lord,  
He wishes for himself to keep  
And lie there in unbroken sleep.  
For ninety years he's risen early  
To tend the things he loved so dearly.  
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter never  
Escaped an eye and hand so clever  
With plants there in the potting shed:  
But now he wants to lie abed.  
"I'm tired," he said, "and plants keep growing,  
And proper gardeners must keep hoeing:  
My back aches awful, my poor old knees  
Give way beneath me." So, Lord, please,  
Allow old Reuben Pace to sleep,  
Blind to the weeds that o'er him creep.  
Cecil Roberts

### The Good Life

To be strong and true; to be generous in praise and appreciation of others; to impute worthy motives even to enemies; to give without expectation of return; to seek truth and righteousness; to work, love, pray, and serve daily, and aspire greatly, labour cheerfully, and take God at His word—this is to travel heavenward.  
Grenville Kleiser

### THE POET

He fills the world with his singing,  
High notes of the heavenly morn,  
For ever and ever ringing  
As age after age is born.  
And then he is still, and we know not  
Whither his thoughts have fled;  
Only the clear notes flow not,  
And we say the singer is dead.  
But the nightingales that he cherished,  
They carol and cannot die;  
Though the man whom we loved hath perished,  
His melody throbs for aye.  
John Addington Symonds

### The Old Shepherd

I DON'T say that I want to have my life again, because 'twould be sinful. We must take what is sent. But if 'twas offered to me and I was told to choose my work, I'd say, "Give me my Wiltshire Downs again and let me be a shepherd there all my life long."

A Wiltshire shepherd quoted by W. H. Hudson

### HIS PILGRIMAGE

GIVE me my scallop-shell of quiet,  
My staff of faith to walk upon,  
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,  
My bottle of salvation,  
My gown of glory, hope's true gage;  
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.  
Sir Walter Raleigh

### GOD'S BUSINESS

KEEP close to duty. Never mind the future, if only you have peace of conscience, if you feel yourself reconciled and in harmony with the order of things. Be what you ought to be; the rest is God's affair.  
H. F. Amiel

## THE GREATEST SPEECH EVER MADE IN AMERICA

FOURSCORE and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that the nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this; but, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honoured dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.

Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg

## Green Isle of the Brave

OUR bosoms we'll bare for the glorious strife,  
And our oath is recorded on high  
To prevail in the cause that is dearer than life,  
Or crushed in its ruins to die.  
Then rise, fellow freemen, and stretch the right hand,  
And swear to prevail in your dear native land.

Tis the home we hold sacred is laid to our trust,  
God bless the green Isle of the brave!  
Should a conqueror tread on our forefather's dust  
It would rouse the old dead from their grave.  
In a Briton's sweet home shall a spoiler abide,

Profaning its loves and its charms?  
Shall a Frenchman insult the loved fair at our side?  
To arms, oh, my country, to arms!  
Shall a tyrant enslave us, my countrymen? No!  
His head to the sword shall be given:  
A deathbed repentance be taught the proud foe,  
And his blood be an offering to Heaven.  
Then rise, fellow freemen, and stretch the right hand,  
And swear to prevail in your dear native land.

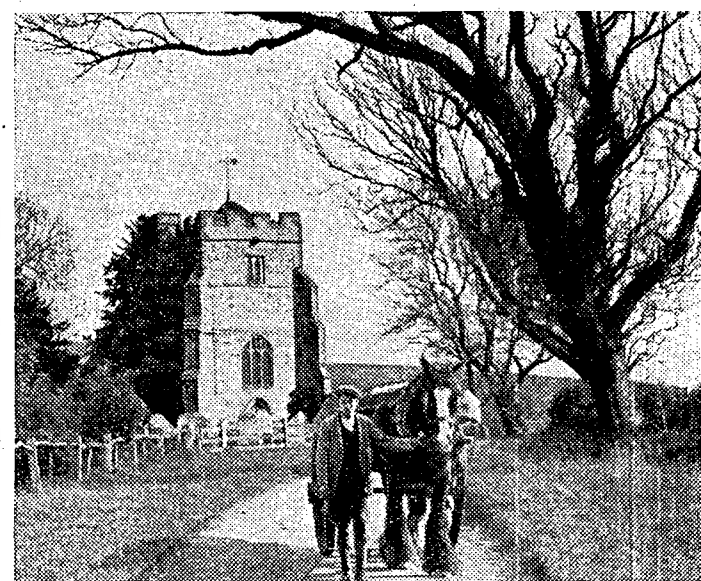
Thomas Campbell, during the threatened invasion of England by Napoleon.

### Right and Wrong

RIGHT and wrong are in the nature of things. They are not words and phrases. They are in the nature of things, and if you transgress the laws laid down, imposed by the nature of things, depend upon it you will pay the penalty.  
John Morley

### OUR AIMS

OUT of the shadows we will grasp victory. Out of victory we will create liberty. Out of liberty will grow happiness. These are our aims: not comfort, but creation; not domination, but cooperation; not frontiers, but freedom.  
Sir Gerald Campbell



**THIS ENGLAND** The old church with its 14th-century tower at Hamsey, on the Sussex Downs



## The Ups and Downs of the Rubber Ball

THE greatest of the world's rubber plantations having passed for the time being into the possession of the Japanese, it is necessary for us to seek fresh sources of supply.

Rubber is a native growth of Africa (notably in the Congo area), of Madagascar, and of South America, where Europeans first saw it four centuries ago used as balls by natives at play.

Brazil has begun investigating her resources in wild rubber in the immense Amazon valley basin, an expanse rich in timber and essential minerals. Developed as a substance of almost world-wide use, rubber is the latex (or milky sap) provided by Nature as a defence for various vines and trees against the attacks of beetles, to which it is poison.

It was the explorers following Columbus who saw it as a plaything, but two centuries elapsed before Europe had a scientific description of its growth.

In 1770 the famous Dr Joseph Priestley mentioned it as obtainable in England in half-inch cubes costing three shillings each, and declared it of use in "wiping from paper the marks of lead pencil." It first became commercially notable in England when Thomas Hancock, a London man, discovered that by the use of heat and sulphur the latex could be freed of its stickiness and made into elastic springs for gloves and braces. Brazil, from which new supplies will doubtless now be forthcoming, yielded the seed from which the East was

planted. Rubber seeds perish quickly, so supplies were sought for and secretly brought to Kew Gardens, where they germinated. They arrived one night in a handsome cab, and men were called up from their beds to sow them.

From Kew the tiny trees from this cargo were shipped out to the East, where until the other day, the original trees were still growing in Ceylon and Singapore. All the other rubber trees in the Far East sprang from seeds of the trees sent out from Kew.

So abundant did the yield of rubber become, that a few years ago the supply far exceeded the demand. Prizes were offered for suggestions of new ways for using rubber, yet so vast was the flow of latex that growers had to limit their output, tapping yearly only a certain proportion of their trees.

Today the case is suddenly altered. Millions of trees have been destroyed to prevent their falling into the hands of our foes, and so serious is the shortage that in the United States restrictions are even more drastic than here. Motorists there have been notified that they will get no more tyres until after the war.

So rubber has gone up and down like a rubber ball. Fortunately we are to have vast quantities of rubber substitutes so that all will be well.

## A Friend of Every Sailor

WE have been looking through a report of an organisation every British seaman loves, the British Sailors Society, which gives our sailors a comfortable welcome and a home in foreign ports in time of peace, and is in time of war their constant friend in a hundred ways.

The Welfare Superintendent of the Society is our old friend the Reverend George Dempster, and these are one or two of the things his department is doing:

Providing emergency outfits for Rescue Tugs and Ships; Distributing clothing to homes and families of seamen after air-raids.

Caring for seamen in temporary distress.

Aiding seamen who need help in travelling from port to port.

Helping homes bereft by sea disasters.

Directing men or their dependants to the proper authority to deal with pension claims.

Assisting men who, having broken the law, are free to start life again.

Finding outfits for men who have neither cash nor coupons.

Visiting hospitals to find seamen who have no relatives but need a friend.

Acting for shipping companies in breaking news of losses at sea and attending to the needs of the homes concerned.

Arranging transport of seamen's homes and families where no other scheme is available.

Perhaps we do not think enough of the ceaseless work our societies carry on from day to day, doing things a Government cannot do, and doing in our name the countless little acts of kindness we would so gladly do if the chance came our way. The British Sailors Society does it all for us, and we beg our C.N. friends to remember it if they can spare a mite. Let it go to the British Sailors Society at one of its hundred centres from Wellington to Vancouver, especially to the Sailors Palace, Commercial Road, London, E 14.

## Taste and Smell

Young children come next to dogs in a fine sense of smell, and some are able to tell the owner of a handkerchief by sniffing at it, as a dog does.

But this ability usually leaves them as they grow older, and a professor of psychology who has lately written on smell and taste remarks that both these faculties differ widely among individuals.

Many of them at this season of the year suffer from the "olfactory fatigue" which accompanies a cold in the head, and can smell nothing at all. Taste vanishes with smell, but the tastes that come back first are sweet, sour, bitter, and salt. These, however, can be confused, and the professor gives examples of the taste of one commodity, manna, which five different persons described differently, and of one scent, pink verbena, which some cannot smell at all.

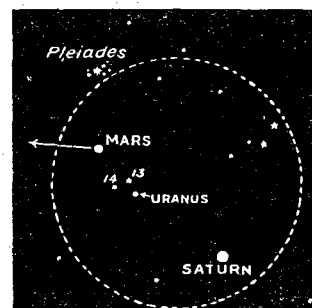
## A Patriot and His WASTE-PAPER Are Soon Parted

## RARE GATHERING OF THREE PLANETS

THE worlds of Mars, Saturn, and Uranus, writes the C.N. astronomer, are now grouped together in the same region of the sky, and so close that they may be seen in the same field-of-view of any glasses. This is a very rare event and one that provides an exceptional opportunity to obtain a peep at the weird far-off Uranus, which otherwise is very difficult to find on account of its faintness.

All these planets appear a little way south of the Pleiades, which are now high up and a little to the west of due south between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening.

The brilliant Jupiter appears a little way to the left, while Mars and Saturn may be easily identified from our star-map; Mars being above and of a yellowish hue. During next week Uranus will appear almost in line with and between Mars and Saturn;



The present positions of Mars, Saturn, and Uranus

but as he is only just perceptible to the naked eye on a very dark and clear night, it will be best to use glasses, field-glasses for preference. Then his interesting position, apparently close to the two faint stars numbered 13 and 14, and his motion past them, may be noted during the next few weeks. At present they form a pretty triangle, but as Uranus is now travelling eastwards, or toward the left, he will eventually move into line with these two stars; this will occur in April.

Uranus is now at the immense distance of 1875 million miles, and one curious result of this is that we do not see his sphere exactly where it appears to be when viewed through a telescope, but only where it was 2 hours and 50 minutes earlier. This is because the light from Uranus, which tells us of his whereabouts, takes all this time to reach us.

So, when the great sphere of Uranus, which is 30,900 miles in diameter, is being viewed, it appears 43,350 miles behind where it actually is; for this is about the distance Uranus travels in 2 hours and 50 minutes, at his average rate of 4½ miles a second.

From this we can see what a confused state of things would exist on Earth, and as seen from the Earth, if light travelled no faster than sound, for only things comparatively near to us would be where they appeared to be.

Saturn is less than half as far as Uranus, being now about 910 million miles away, and, like Uranus, is receding from us; but Saturn is exceptionally bright this year because his grand encircling Rings are now open almost to the widest that we ever see them, appearing at an angle of 24 degrees tilted toward us.

So the globe of Saturn is now almost within the entire circumference of the Rings, and will be even more so next year. As the Rings now reflect nearly one and two-thirds times more light than the sphere of Saturn itself, they now make Saturn appear some three times brighter than when the Rings are presented edgewise, and consequently invisible. Though the sphere of Saturn has a diameter of 75,100 miles, we see what a grand addition is that of the 171,000 miles presented by the Rings.

### Mars Receding

Mars, also receding from us, is now about 135 million miles away and rapidly travelling eastward, so that he will remain for only a few days in the field of the star-map; the arrow indicates the extent that he will travel during next week.

Venus is still much the nearest world to us, and she now appears as a splendid object in the south-east sky before sunrise. At present she is only about 38 million miles away, and will be at her greatest brilliance on Monday next. G. F. M.

## Problem of the Poultry Run

FAR too many cockerels are crowing in the back gardens of our suburbs and villages, clamouring doubtless for a share in the rations eked out to those who are adding to our national egg supply.

For the majority of those who have taken steps to secure their own egg supplies the cockerel is a white elephant, usually purchased cheaply in the market-place in a brood which has just been hatched.

Now, skilled chicken-breeders can usually be relied on to supply clutches consisting only of pullets to those anxious to rear their own birds until they begin to lay at about seven months old, for they have followed the scientific principles revealed by Abbot Mendel and developed by Professor Bateson and his successor, Professor Punnett, at the Cambridge School of Genetics. Many breeders, however, have employed Japanese experts who are skilled in noting the sex of a chicken immediately it has emerged from the egg, with the result that not one day's food need be wasted on the cockerel.

Consequently, when Japan entered the war and these

Japanese were interned, the National Poultry Council petitioned the Home Office to set them free to carry on their work. Professor Punnett, however, has written to The Times to remind us that if we only take full advantage of what the Cambridge School has discovered there should be no need for the Jap, with his eagle eye, because science has in these matters gone one better than the Jap.

For some years, writes Professor Punnett, the Cambridge School has been developing auto-sexing breeds, in which the sexes of the chicks declare themselves at hatching by the colour of their down. Moreover, by the very nature of their constitution these breeds can be multiplied far more rapidly than ordinary ones. If we set our minds to it the bulk of our poultry could, in three or four years, be made to consist of these auto-sexing breeds.

Thus, by the application of the knowledge acquired in our own country we can quickly get rid of both the unwanted cockerel and the unnecessary Jap. We may now hope that the problem of the Jap and the chick is solved.

## TIME ON BROADWAY

NEW YORKERS passing the window of the American Telegraph and Telephone Building on Broadway now set their watches by a marvellous clock.

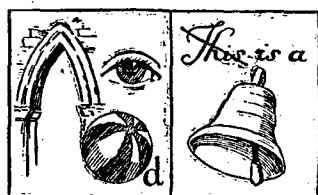
Half a century ago passers-by were craning their necks to see the famous time ball being dropped on the roof of this same building. Every day for 40 years, at two minutes before noon, the ball was hauled to the top of its pole, where it was held in place by an armature controlled by electric signal from the Naval

Observatory at Washington. Then it was dropped on the tick of twelve. The clock of today is accurate within a few hundredths of a second. The electrical driving mechanism, designed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories, is operated by an exceptionally steady current which is controlled by apparatus accurate to one part in ten million.

Also in the window are eight other clocks telling the time in distant cities.

## BEDTIME CORNER

Is Your Name Here?



These picture puzzles represent a boy's and a girl's name. Archibald and Isabel

### The River Fish and the Sea Fish

A BIG pike which had been king of the small fish in the river was one day carried by an extra strong current to the sea. He was foolish enough to think that in the great ocean, as in the river, he would be more important than all the other fish there.

"Well," said a fine sturgeon one day, when they were caught in a net, "we shall

soon see now who fetches the highest price in the market."

When the net was emptied the pike was thrown away as not being worth the trouble of taking to market.

Boasters are always estimated at their proper worth.

### TOWN SPARROWS

LITTLE town sparrows, so dabbled and dowdy, Chirping in gutters, if I had your wings I'd fly to the fields where, so spruce and so rowdy, Your bright little brother, the country bird, sings.

### PRAYER

O LORD, fill me with Thy gentle Spirit. Keep my heart kind and make me cheerful on my way through the world. Give me strength to bear any trouble or disappointment that may come to me, and make me a good soldier of Thy kingdom. Amen.



The Children's Newspaper, March 7, 1942

7

# THE TRANSFORMATION OF HOG ISLAND

## How a Swamp Became a City of Ships

THE tremendous efforts America is now making to build a colossal navy and merchant marine have recalled a great feat she accomplished in the last years of the Great War.

Owing to the fact that the war ended suddenly this tremendous achievement passed almost unheeded, and America's new fleets became a sort of white elephant; but the story is well worth recalling, and we are reminded of it by a recent lecture of Sir Westcott Abel, our famous shipping expert.

How vast and swift was the construction of these merchant ships will be realised when we note that though American tonnage launched in 1916 was 500,000, it was double that in 1917, was trebled again in 1918, and reached 4,000,000 tons in 1919. In the year ending April 1919 as many as 582 steel sea-going vessels were completed, compared with 203 in 1917. Many wooden vessels were built for coast trade, while the output on the Great Lakes was more than trebled.

### Great Engineering Feat

One of the chief methods for speeding up the output was the introduction of "fabricated ships," for which far-scattered plant and workers in bridge-building and other steel factories were used to prepare material which was brought together in special shipyards. Three great firms were engaged on these fabricated ships, and one of them accomplished as remarkable a piece of work as had ever been known in the history of engineering, the transformation in less than one year of 856 acres of swampy marsh eight miles from Philadelphia into a complete industrial city.

Known as Hog Island, this great marsh was without any railway facilities when it was taken over by the American International Shipbuilding Corporation in September 1917, to fulfil a contract for 50 cargo vessels of 8800 tons and 70 smaller vessels. So bleak was its situation, and so bitter was the winter that year, that for two or three months the whole site was under Arctic conditions, and the ground had to be thawed by steam before work could be done. Yet the first keel was laid in

February 1918, and by September 50 slipways had been completed and 50 ships begun.

Within 12 months there arose on Hog Island a city with 30,000 workers, in which two trunk lines of railways ran, and from which 100 vessels a year could be delivered.

The organisation of the supplies of fabricated material was a wonderful feat in itself. The material was made at 38 steel works and passed through 88 other firms of fabricators, who shaped and prepared the material before it was despatched to the erecting yards on Hog Island. As many as 617 connecting railways bore this material from the rolling mill to the shipbuilder.

Another amazing thing was that only the head men of the Corporation had any previous experience in shipbuilding or marine engineering. Taken from all kinds of occupations, the workers had to pass through a special school of instruction, while the clerical staff must have had a rare vigilance in keeping everything moving over the complex system in order that each piece of work should arrive at the required spot the moment it was needed.

### Three Ships a Fortnight

The Armistice ended the war in November and construction ceased to be urgent, but the rate of output had then reached three ships a fortnight, as many as 30 having been launched before the end of 1918. Had the war lasted the contribution of this city on a swamp would have been truly amazing.

That was what America could do in 1918. We are confident that greater miracles in construction will be achieved today.

## Monkey Talk

MANY of our so-called dumb friends are not so dumb as we may think.

A visit to the Zoo gives evidence that monkeys, at any rate, have plenty to chatter about.

In America, Russia, and South Africa scientists are cooperating in producing a monkey dictionary. Sound-recording apparatus is placed in a cage of monkeys and observers make notes of the circumstances causing various sounds to be made. The records are played many times and notes are compared. By this means it is hoped to identify certain sounds with

definite actions made by the animals. In Moscow a professor and six assistants working in turn kept observation for eight months, and an American professor had monkey companions for six months.

It seems that different kinds of monkeys and apes have dialects, the rhesus monkey's being unintelligible to the orang-utan; but while a young monkey may know only three or four sounds the old fellow may have a vocabulary of fifty. The young friar monkey calling Kii means mother, and father answers to the call of Kaa.

## Coventry is Rising Again

### GOOD IDEAS FOR THE NATION

It was on November 14, 1940, that the City of Coventry was laid in ruins. In the months that have elapsed much has been done to rebuild the city by efforts which are greatly to the credit of its authorities and likely to prove of value to other towns.

In Corporation Street, the chief thoroughfare of Coventry, a new shopping centre has come into existence with modest but extremely practical bungalow-shops, the plainness of which is relieved by trees. Thousands of homes are being erected which are damp-proof, rot-proof, vermin-proof, and fire-proof. It is said that they can withstand the blast of a 500-pound bomb at a distance of 30 feet.

Not the least of Coventry's difficulties was the impossibility of obtaining supplies of timber and steel, but it was a fortunate difficulty, for it led to the use of asbestos-cement, which lends itself admirably to mass-production. The fronts of the new shops are plain, but it is not permissible to plaster them with advertisements and the shop-keeper's names are restricted in size, so that it is really easier to find a shop you want than when a thousand competitive signs confuse the observer.

### A Valuable Reform

Another good thing is that the new Coventry will arrange its public service pipes and wires in proper conduits, so that the roads will not have to be broken up to get at a pipe. That is one of the finest reforms imaginable, and an example to all other towns we know.

So much rebuilding will have to be done after the war that mass-production will be forced upon us in some places. Someone has said that it is a pity Henry Ford did not introduce the mass-production house rather than the mass-production car, seeing that the house maintains life while the car destroys it! However that may be, the mass-production of parts of houses, to be put together on a building site, may work wonders if guided by a proper sense of artistry.

### Inventions Wanted

Having made a National Roster in which all persons with scientific or specialised training are to register, the United States Government has set them tasks to do. They are invited, according to their varied capacities, to turn their attention to the construction of electro-magnetic guns, or of automatic mines for use on land or at sea. The electricians may aim at a movable flood-lighting apparatus for landing fields. A lightweight protective armoured clothing is in demand; and further devices for preventing icing on planes will be welcome. Most difficult of these and many other problems set for solution is that of distant control for setting in motion and guiding land vehicles and ships.

## A New World For a Hermit Horse

IN a green London suburb has just been seen an example of the power of instinct in animals.

In a playing-field of 30 acres lives a fine horse, which hauls the mowing-machine and roller in summer, and, stabled there throughout the year, never sees a public road. Its home is surrounded by gardens and a park.

The other day curiosity impelled the horse to take advantage of a gate left open, and out into the world it ventured. For three years its shoeless hoofs had been accustomed to soft turf, and the first contact with asphalt and macadam pulled the horse up with a shock. The black road may have seemed to it like a stretch of water, for the puzzled horse first tested it with

a foot, and then put down its head and smelt the surface.

Out on the road at last, it listened nervously to distant traffic sounds, and on a car approaching the horse made a dart for an open shrubbery; but, before it dared to cross over the gutter, down went its head for another smell at the surface. The danger past it sniffed its way back to the road, and then, its confidence growing a little, away it went up the highway at a slow graceful canter, free, yet filled with perplexity, and taking all the primitive precautions that instinct suggested.

The conduct of this hermit horse in London matched exactly the behaviour of the wild horses of the steppes and tundras.



Drink Delicious

## Ovaltine for Health, Energy and the Will-to-win

PERFECT physical fitness, abundant energy and the will-to-win—these are the qualities you must possess if you are to be successful in sports and games.

Remember that the leading coaches and trainers insist on 'Ovaltine' as an essential part of the training diet for players and athletes in their charge. They know that there is nothing like 'Ovaltine' for building up physical fitness and stamina.

'Ovaltine' has also played an important part in many outstanding feats of endurance. Famous mountaineering expeditions, including the last two Mount Everest Expeditions, carried 'Ovaltine' as an essential part of their high climbing ration. Explorers have taken it to the ends of the earth.

In everyday life, in your school work, the same fitness and vigour are just as valuable. That is why you should drink delicious 'Ovaltine' every day. It will keep you fit in body and mind and help you always to do your best.



## Should We Own the Railways?

### THE BOY TALKS WITH THE MAN

**Boy.** As our railways are such public affairs, why should they not belong to the public?

**Man.** That question has been often asked, and more and more people answer it by saying that it would be in the best interests of the nation that it should become the sole owner and director of what is essentially a national service. In the last war the Government took over all the railway companies, of which then there were many, but released them when the war ended. In the present war the Government has again hired the railways, paying about £38,000,000 a year. If you said to me that it is strange that a great nation should hire railways I should agree with you.

**Boy.** It seems a lot to pay, but I suppose we had to be fair to the shareholders.

**Man.** A nation must be fair to all, and in this case fair play could easily be fair to the railway owners while saving a lot of money. It is actually the case that if the Government bought up the railways, paying for them in stock yielding three per cent interest, the shareholders would get as interest £22,500,000 instead of £38,000,000, but would get better security, and the nation would save £15,500,000 a year. This would enable them, when peace comes, to make railway improvements which are badly needed and to pay off the stock raised to buy the railways.

**Boy.** But it is not merely a matter of arithmetic or saving, is it? Our railways are so very inconvenient. My father, who has to travel about the country, tells me that often one has to get out of a train at one side of a town and travel across it by cab or bus to pick up a connection on the other side of the town. Why are there such stupid arrangements?

**Man.** The answer is that our railways were not planned for the good of the country or the convenience of its citizens, but to make profit, each private company going its own way, often in rivalry with another. Land owners, too, were often opposed to railways altogether. So our country, which invented railways, became a map of railway absurdities. After the last war, the Government amalgamated most of the companies, setting up four main systems; that was all to the good, but it left much to do. Probably we ought now to finish the amalgamation, turning it into a national enterprise worked entirely for the convenience of our people and the furtherance of trade.

**Boy.** Won't the Government have its hands too full to see to such things after the war?

**Man.** My own feeling is that if our peace governments are too busy to reform such things as mines, railways, canals, roads, and shipping, it will be because it is busy with the wrong things. The country needs better planning. Our island has a very small area and its public services are necessarily small. Our entire iron and steel industry, regarded as a whole, is a smaller undertaking than is managed by a single concern in the United States.

To direct all British railways as a single enterprise would really be less trouble than to direct one of the four private systems. There is no more sense in treating the British railway service in compartments than in dividing up the postal service into four areas, managed by different companies.

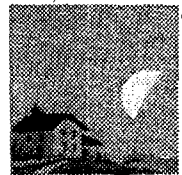
## MODEL

WHILE a play was in progress a lady turned in her seat and said to a man behind: "I hope my hat is not annoying you?"

"It is, madam," was the reply, "for my wife wants one just like it."

## Other Worlds Next Week

IN the evening the planet Jupiter is in the south, and Mars, Saturn, and Uranus are south by west. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8.30 on Monday morning, March 9.



# The BRAN TUB

## Shakespeare Sayings

SWEET are the uses of adversity.

As You Like It, II 1

That way madness lies.

King Lear, III 4

Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it.

Macbeth, I 4

The weakest goes to the wall.

Romeo and Juliet, I 1

She sat like patience on a monument.

Twelfth Night, II 4

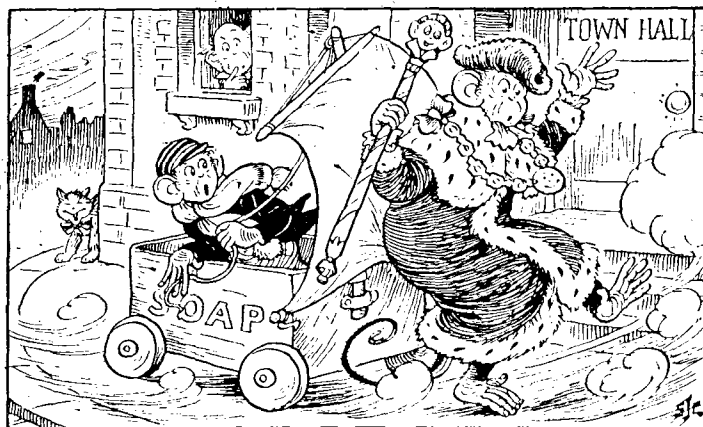
## TEATIME

THE flames beneath the kettle croon,

And clap their hands, and dance in glee;

Even the kettle hums a tune To tell me when it's time for tea.

## Jacko Goes Too Fast



WITH an old soap-box and a sail Jacko had made a really marvellous land yacht. He was going so fast, one windy day, that he bumped into the mayor, who was strutting along in great style to the town hall. "If it isn't that boy again!" cried the mayor, shaking his mace at him.

## Optimist

THOUGH I'm trapped (squeaked a cheerful young Mouse),

I've no reason to grumble or grouse;

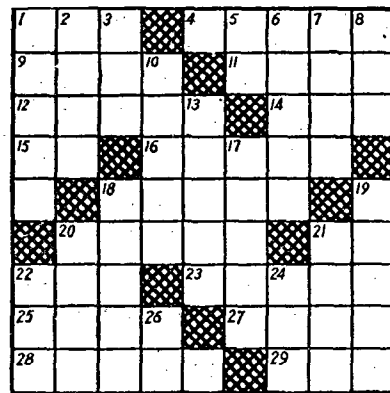
When a chap's safe in here He's protected, it's clear, From the claws of the Cat of the House!

## DIVIDED WORD

THREE words are missing in the following rhyme. The last two words consist of the same eight letters as the first word.

When I my pony 12345678  
And canter and gallop like mad,  
I certainly have the 1234 5678  
That any brave horseman's e'er had.

Answer next week



Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week.

## Do You Live in Stoke Newington?

THE word Stoke is the Old English Stoc, meaning simply "a place," and Newington is the Old English Niwantun, meaning "at the new town." Stoke Newington, therefore, means the place where the new town is rising up, a reference to very early days.

## INTERRUPTION

THE proceedings of a police-court case had been rather noisy, and the magistrate determined to restore order.

"The next person who interrupts," he said sternly, "will be put outside."

"Hurrah!" shouted the prisoner.

## Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A wand. 4 Fruit of the vine. 9 Eager. 11 To run like water. 12 A dogma. 14 A single thing. 15 Surrounded by. 16 A kind of sarcasm suggesting praise but meaning disapprobation. 18 With mouth wide open. 20 An ignoramus. 21 Denoting destination. 22 Canine friend. 23 To furnish with a gift. 25 So be it. 27 Singly. 28 A kind of emerald. 29 Forty-five inches.

Reading Down. 1 Relation one thing has to another in quantity. 2 Where baking is done. 3 Noise. 5 Royal fugitives. 6 Unaccompanied. 7 A little horse. 8 A female sheep. 10 To descend. 13 Vestige. 17 Begins. 18 A boring instrument. 19 Used after washing. 20 A cupola. 21 A charge for using a bridge. 22 A flounder. 24 Female deer. 26 New York.\*

Answer next week.

## HOW FAR?

AT ten o'clock one morning Tom left his home to reach a town twenty miles away. After walking six miles at a speed of three miles an hour he borrowed a bicycle and cycled for an hour. He was then unlucky enough to puncture a tyre, and finished his journey by pushing the bicycle at two miles an hour.

He reached his destination at three o'clock in the afternoon. How far did he cycle?

Answer next week

## Indigestion

No wonder the snake looked so sad. He had managed to swallow a goat; And it wasn't remorse that he had When he felt a big lump in his throat!

## HIS ALL

THRIFTY ONE: Have you anything in the bank?  
Spendthrift: Only confidence.

## Why Blotting-Paper Blots

AS most of us know, a fluid will always find its own level. Capillary tubes are, however, an exception, fluid showing a tendency to rise in them. Blotting-paper is made in such a manner that it is perforated with millions of tiny holes, and it is similar in this to capillary tubes.

When ink comes in contact with blotting-paper it rises to these holes; and when blotting-paper no longer blots it is because the holes are filled with fluid.

## Ici on Parle Français

Les Voleurs et L'âne

Pour un âne enlevé, deux voleurs se battaient;  
L'un voulait le garder, l'autre le voulait vendre.  
Tandis que coups de poing trotaient,  
Et que nos champions songeaient à se défendre,  
Arrive un troisième larron Qui saisit maître Aliboron.

La Fontaine

## "FOUNTAIN PEN" ACTION

The Gillott Nib with the new "Inqueduct Reservoir" attachment (Pat. No. 477466) gives fountain pen action with advantages of Gillott Stainless Steel Nib. "Inqueduct" opens for easy cleaning. Supplied with four patterns of nib.

## THE INQUEDUCT HOLDS THE INK.

High-class stationers stock—or particulars can be obtained from Joseph Gillott & Sons, Ltd., on application.



JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD., VICTORIA WORKS, BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND.

The Children's Newspaper, March 7, 1942

## JERRY BUILDER

IF a house is badly constructed we say it is jerry-built. The word jerry used thus is probably a corruption of Jericho, and refers to the walls of Jericho which fell down after the Israelites had walked round them blowing their trumpets.



Yeast is the richest natural source of Vitamins B.1 and B.2, also Proteins, therefore Yeast is essential to everyone—adults as well as children—especially in these days of rationing. Yet yeast, in its raw state, is so unpalatable that not one person in a million could take it.

## ORANJEAST is YEAST in a novel and pleasing form

prepared so that your children, and you, can take it regularly, and enjoy it. Oranjeast possesses all the strengthening, health-giving qualities of yeast, in a form pleasant to everyone.

## \*THE STRENGTH OF YEAST\*

## \*THE FLAVOUR OF ORANGES\*

Oranjeast counteracts Vitamin 'B' deficiency is a pleasant drink that children will ask for; a natural tonic drink for the war worker, and a beauty drink for women.

THE CERTIFICATE OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HYGIENE HAS BEEN AWARDED IN RESPECT OF ORANJEAST.

Price 9d. per packet from Boots, Timothy Whites and Taylors, Chemists, Grocers and Stores. If out of stock Oranjeast can be obtained for you in a few hours.

THAMES CHEMICALS, LTD., 2, THE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY.

## ORANJEAST

The Morning & Evening Drink for Health & Pleasure

## SWEETENS CHILD'S SOUR STOMACH IN FIVE MINUTES

Mother! You'll be positively amazed how quickly a little 'Milk of Magnesia' sweetens a stomach made sour and sick by too much rich food. 'Milk of Magnesia' overcomes the sour acidity the moment it reaches the stomach. That sick, ill feeling quickly passes away and in no time the little one is as lively as a cricket. Then 'Milk of Magnesia' moves the bowels and relieves the system of the offending bile and undigested food which have made the child ill. At the first sign of sickness just give 'Milk of Magnesia' and nip the attack in the bud. Get 'Milk of Magnesia' today and have it handy. 1/5 and 2/10 (treble quantity). Including Purchase Tax. Also 'Milk of Magnesia' brand Tablets, 7d., 1/1½, 2/3 and 3/11½. (Including Purchase Tax.) Obtainable everywhere. Be quite sure it is 'Milk of Magnesia'.

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of Magnesia.